

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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SUBJECT: 12TH BERLIN WALL ANNIVERSARY

1. SUMMARY. GDR COMMEMORATION OF 12TH ANNIVERSARY OF WALL WAS LIMITED TO EDITORIAL COMMENT, WITH NEUES DEUTSCHLAND ATTRIBUTING TO WALL MUCH OF SUCESS OF EAST-WEST DETENTE AND PAINTING POSITIVE PICTURE OF BORDER-CROSSING TRAFFIC, WHILE REPEATING RECENT WARNINGS ON EXFILTRATION. OBSERVANCE OF ANNIVERSARY IN WEST BERLIN WAS IN LOW-KEY. END SUMMARY.

2. IN KEEPING WITH PRACTICE APPARENTLY INSTITUTED IN 1972 (BERLIN 1424 OF AUGUST 15, 1972), GDR COMMEMORATION OF BERLIN WALL ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR WAS LIMITED TO EDITORIAL COMMENT, WITH NO MILITARY PARADES OR OTHER PUBLIC MANIFESTATIONS. IN HAILING EVENT, AUGUST 13 NEUES DEUTSCHLAND (ND) EDITORIAL TOOK LINE THAT ACTION TO "SECURE GDR STATE BORDERS" ON AUGUST 13, 1961 HAD BEEN MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO STRENGTHENING BOTH GDR AND ENTIRE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOCIALIST COMMUNITY, TO POLICY OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE,

AND--GIVEN ABSENCE OF COUNTERACTION BY U.S.--TO MORE SOBER APPRAISAL OF "REALITIES" ON PART CAPITALIST STATES, ESPECIALLY FRG. IN ELABORATING ON LATTER POINT, ND MAINTAINED THAT THIS "RETHINKING PROCESS" HAD FINALLY RESULTED IN "OTHER SIDE'S" RECOGNIZING GDR STATE BORDERS UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW AND OVER NINETY COUNTRIES ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH GDR. ND THUS IMPLIED THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS ALSO INVOLVES RECOGNITION OF WALL AS GDR STATE BORDER.

3. WHILE STRESSING CONTINUED NEED FOR "PROPER SECURITY" OF GDR BORDERS, ND ALSO ASSERTED SUCH SECURITY NO HINDRANCE FOR BORDER-CROSSING TRAFFIC, WHICH IN PROPORTION TO SIZE OF TERRITORY AND POPULATION ALMOST UNSURPASSED ELSEWHERE IN WORLD. IN THIS CONNECTION, ND PROVIDED FOLLOWING STATISTICS FOR JANUARY 1 - AUGUST 8, 1973 PERIOD: 2,232,467 VISITS BY FRG CITIZENS; 2,147,743 VISITS BY "WESTBERLIN CITIZENS"; 7,251,585 PERSONS AND 2,993,761 MOTOR VEHICLES USED FRG-WEST BERLIN TRANSIT ROUTES; 555,463 GDR CITIZENS TRAVELED TO FRG, AND 378,286 TO WEST BERLIN.

4. IN EVIDENT ALLUSION TO EXFILTRATION PROBLEM, ND CLAIMED THERE WERE STILL FORCES IN FRG AND WEST BERLIN SEEKING TO RESTOR PRE-1961 SITUATION RATHER THAN TO PROMOTE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS, TRAVEL POSSIBILITIES AND "FREE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND OPINION WITH DUE REGARD FOR EXISTING LAWS AND COMMON TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS." REFLECTING TOUGH STANCE OF ITS AUGUST 10 EDITORIAL (BERLIN 1377), ND STATED THAT SUCH EFFORTS WOULD COME TO NAUGHT, AND THAT GDR BORDER REGIME IS ONE DETERMINED BY GDR AND CONSISTENT WITH EXISTING TREATIES AS WELL AS GENERAL PRINCIPLE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW. (AUGUST 11 AND 12 ND ALSO CARRIED EXCERPTS FROM EE, WEST BERLIN AND FRG PRESS COMMENTARIES CONDEMNING MISUSE OF TRANSIT ROUTES.) APPARENTLY TO STRESS GDR DETERMINATION TO STOP EXFILTRATION, ND EDITORIAL CONCLUDED BY PRAISING GDR BORDER GUARDS AND CLAIMING THAT THEIR ACTIONS SERVE PEACE AND NORMALIZATION OF GDR-FRG RELATIONS. AS IF TO IMPLY THAT ORDERS TO SHOOT ARE HERE TO STAY, ND ALSO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POINTEDLY NOTED THAT REPEATED "PROVOCATIONS" AT GDR FRONTIERS REQUIRE UNDIMINISHED BORDER-GUARD ACTIVITIES (EINSATZ) BOTH TODAY AND IN FUTURE.

5. OBSERVANCE OF WALL ANNIVERSARY IN WEST BERLIN WAS UNDEMONSTRATIVE. PRINCIPAL PUBLIC COMMEMORATION WAS WREATH-LAYING AT MONUMENT TO VICTIMS OF STALINISM (STEINPLATZ), PRECEDED BY SPEECHES BY MAHOR NEUBAUER, CDU

CHAIRMAN LORENZ, AND FDR CHAIRMAN LUEDER. MAYOR NEUBAUER'S ADDRESS WAS LARGELY ATTUNED TO CURRENT SPD POLICY TOWARDS GDR, BUT NONETHELESS INCLUDED STATEMENT THAT WALL ITSELF, AND ESPECIALLY ORDERS TO SHOOT, WERE FIT SUBJECT FOR UN DISCUSSION; LORENZ HAD RESORT TO FINE BUT STANDARD CDU RHETORIC ON SUBJECT; AND FDP'S LUEDER, TO OBVIOUS DISPLEASURE OF MOSTLY ELDERLY CROWD OF SOME 250 PERSONS, SPOKE IN FAVOR OF ADJUSTMENT TO "REALITIES". THERE WAS NO OFFICIAL COMMEMORATION OF WALL ANNIVERSARY.

6. AMONG WEST BERLIN EDITORIAL COMMENT ON ANNIVERSARY, BERLINER MORGENPOST DEPLORED TODAY'S "INDIFFERENT" ACCEPTANCE OF WALL AND TENDENCY OF "DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL LEADERS" TO REGARD ESCAPEES AND ASSISTANCE TO THEM AS "NUISANCE". FELLOW SPRINGER JOURNAL BZ OPINED IN LIKE TERMS THAT THERE IS INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN PORTRAYING GDR AS "NORMAL" STATE AND FACT THAT THREAT OF DEATH HAS TO BE EMPLOYED TO PREVENT EAST GERMANS FROM RUNNING AWAY. IN CONTRADISTINCTION, INDEPENDENT DER ABEND CALLED FOR END TO INTERNAL QUARRELS OVER WALL, GERMANY POLICY AND OSTPOLITIK, AND EXPRESSED WISH FOR GENERAL ACCEPTANCE OF BRANDT'S FORMULA OF RECOGNIZING REALITIES IN ORDER TO CHANGE THEM.KLEIN

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